



USAID SUPPORT: LA PAZ

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government has a comprehensive assistance program that supports the Bolivian Government's National Development Plan.



Titicaca Lake

*USAID/Bolivia:
working together*

Through its official foreign assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government supports development in several municipalities in the department of La Paz. Projects seek to reduce poverty through economic growth generated by enterprise development and increased productivity; improve access to health care for the poor and promote environmental protection and conservation. USAID programs create opportunities for marginalized populations, promoting their social, political, and economic inclusion.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Since 2006, USAID has supported artisans, small and medium entrepreneurs of El Alto to improve their handicrafts, products and develop greater market competitiveness. To reach this goal, along with direct technical assistance, in conjunction with the Catholic University and the Bolivian Private University, a vocational training program for small businesses has been carried out.

As part of a long term support to the development of production capacities in El Alto, USAID funds Scholarships for university professors so they can obtain a Masters Degree in Business Development and share their knowledge by teaching in El Alto's public university.

USAID also strengthens financial institutions and credit unions through the introduction of innovative services. In addition, USAID supports the development of cleaner production technologies and promotes alliances in the production cycles of quinoa grain sold on international markets.

IMPROVED HEALTH FOR BOLIVIANS

USAID seeks to improve the health of underserved Bolivians by increasing access to quality health services through the strengthening of public and NGO health facilities and networks. The program supports the Ministry of Health's policy of extending services to rural areas, with a special focus on family and community health.

USAID provides sub-grants to local NGOs for projects that support training, equipment and education activities in the areas of maternal and child health, nutrition, and reproductive health. The program strengthens the capacity of municipal and local health authorities in health system management and planning through technical assistance and training.

USAID provides support for voluntary HIV counseling and testing services and education activities through the private sector, while also supporting training, equipment and human resources for the national HIV/AIDS program in La Paz.

PROSALUD, Bolivia's largest provider of private health services, and CIES, an

organization that specializes in reproductive health, directly deliver health services in the peri-urban areas of La Paz and El Alto.

In selected municipalities in the Yungas, USAID supports an oral hygiene activity targeting school children, vaccination campaigns, the establishment of municipal pharmacies, and the development of plans to respond to epidemic outbreaks.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

USAID, in conjunction with the Government of Bolivia, departmental government, local governments and community organizations, promotes the conservation and sustainable development of the Amboró-Madidi Corridor, which contains nine protected areas, nine indigenous groups and covers over 12% of the national territory. Assistance has supported environmentally friendly planning of indigenous territories and municipalities, along with the promotion of community-based ecotourism and other economic initiatives to generate income, parks management and environmental education. USAID programs have also helped to put more than 500,000 hectares of forest lands under sustainable management and increased incomes from forest activities of participating communities by 55%.

USAID's Cleaner Production program has helped to make Bolivian industries in La Paz and El Alto more environmentally responsible and competitive in international markets.

In October 2008, USAID/Bolivia initiated a program that works on targeted near-shore pollution prevention and mitigation interventions at Lake Tititcaca combined with industrial pollution prevention activities in El Alto targeting contamination that pollutes the Lake's Cohana Bay in order to improve the health and well-being of the people who live there and to make a significant difference to the biodiversity of this ecosystem.

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

USAID coordinates with the Government of Bolivia to strengthen diversified economic development in the Yungas area. USAID funds an integrated development program aimed at assisting small farmers and businesses to increase production and sales of their products to national and international markets. In addition, USAID is funding projects in rural electrification, road infrastructure, community development, rural competitiveness and the management of natural resources.

FOOD SECURITY

The Food for Work Program supports local development and health care initiatives in areas of major food insecurity in Bolivia. USAID works jointly with municipal governments, the departmental government, neighborhood organizations, and farmers in the city of El Alto's peri-urban areas and the Altiplano area of La Paz by supporting the construction of irrigation systems, basic sanitation, community agriculture production, and natural resource management.

COMMUNITY FUND

Through the Community Development Activity Fund, USAID supports rural communities with people-level impact development activities. This initiative implements small self-help projects in response to the needs of low-income communities in urban and rural areas.

The projects have a people-to-people approach and include substantial input from local communities. In the department of La Paz, USAID has provided support for rural schools, an elderly center and children's shelters.